



"What Have You Done For ME Lately?"

As you read this, it's been over a month since WASHFest 2001, and I am still hearing great things about it from area hams. It's a real credit to the club and to everyone involved, everyone who worked so hard to make it happen. To see the smiling vendors, the happy attendees alone made it worthwhile. To have made money on it (I'd tell you how much, but our policy is to not print financial information) and more importantly, to have seen a **10% increase** in attendance in this age of hamfest declines is phenomenal. Everyone involved can give themselves a big pat on the back and a loud "well done!"

Those of you who were here during our darkest days, 3 1/2 years ago, when we didn't even know if the club would survive, have to sit back in amazement at how far we've come since then. And that's something else we can look back on with pride.

But, you know what? It's not enough. Not by a longshot

The Amateur Radio community is suffering a real crisis. It's been building for years, and it's only getting worse. For the first time I can remember, we're at the peak of a sunspot cycle, but we're not seeing the growth spurt that the Amateur Service traditionally has. The proliferation of cable TV and the fear of "CB interference" has led to most new home builders pre-wiring houses for cable and then write extremely restrictive deed restrictions (CC&R's) into most new home sales contracts, to the point that your choice is to either buy a new home in a development and forgo any antennas except attic and stealth ones, or forgo buying a new home and hoping you can find an older home with no restrictions. The public perception, if they think of hams at all, is of old men sitting in a basement listening to strange, undecipherable beeps and bops out of antiquated or strange & exotic electronic equipment — or they think of us as some form of CB, and neither know nor care what the difference is.

As the world has changed, many of the attractions of Amateur Radio have changed with it. The day is long past when a long distance phone call was rare and expensive, and the side effect is to reduce the lure of DX. Satellite, computer, and other technologies have become common place and ordinary. Heck, even the allure of the Two Meter HT with autopatch has been supplanted by cellular telephone and related digital technologies.

Is all lost?

(Continued on page 7)

Next Meeting: April 12th, 2001

The next monthly meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. will be Thursday, April 12th, at the **Mt. Lebanon Fire Department Meeting Room**, in the Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building, 710 Washington Road, starting at 7:00 PM.

Featured speaker for the night is Steve Lane W3SRL, extolling the virtues of QRP operations with a short presentation & a gear "show and tell"

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 443.650(+) N3FFP/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

Field Day Preparations Underway

Back from his latest business trip to Romania, Field Day Chairman Larry K3VX is hard at work setting up plans for WASH Field Day 2001.

Although, thanks to the efforts of Steve W3SRL,



we have a reservation for Mount Lebanon Park again, it's not cast in stone that we return there. Right now, Larry is asking for any suggestions for possible sites, including (to date) Mineral Beach, North Strabane Park, Mt. Lebanon Park, and some other South Hills-area sites that we and/or other clubs have used in past.

We also have to decide how many stations to run, how many antennas to set up, and so forth.

You can reach Larry with your suggestions via email at LComden@mindspring.com

Remember, Field Day is the 4th weekend in June, June 23rd and 24th. We hope to see you there with us or work you at another FD location!

2001 Field Day T-Shirts & Pins are now available from the ARRL. Tee's are \$10, pins are \$5 each.



Note!

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- WASH FM Net, 9:00 PM ET Sunday Nights on the 146.955 and 443.650 Repeaters

- WASH Digital Net, 9:30 PM Sunday Nights 28.105 MHz RTTY & PSK31

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Dayton Hamvention May 18th-20th
- Breeze-Shooters Hamfest June 3rd
- WASHFest 2002, February 24th, 2002

April 2001

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| 1 DST Begins Ellwood City ARA Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net WASH FM Net WASH Digital Net | 2 Greater Pgh VHF Society Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Srvc. Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net | 3 SHB&M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting North Hills ARC Club Net SATERN Net | 4 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co SkyWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES | 5 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting | 6 Elco RS Meeting | 7 Passover RA Erie VE Tests WPA Hilltoppers/BVARA VE Tests North Hills ARC Elmer Net |
| 8 Palm Sunday QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net WASH FM Net WASH Digital Net | 9 Pirate's Home Opener ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Bum of the Month Lunch Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Srvc. Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net | 10 Foothills ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Ft.Venango M&KC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mt North Hills ARC Club Net | 11 North Hills ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES | 12 Maundy Thursday WASH Meeting ARISS Special Event Day Horseshoe ARC Meeting BVARA Meeting | 13 Good Friday | 14 K4ZDH Talk Skyview RS VE Tests Tri-County CW VE Tests 2 Rivers Ham'n Eggs Brkfst North Hills ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net |
| 15 Easter Elk County ARC Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net WASH FM Net WASH Digital Net | 16 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Srvc. Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net | 17 Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Mtng McKean Co ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Club Net | 18 Untington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SkyWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES | 19 WASH VE Exams Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting | 20 2 Rivers ARC Meeting | 21 North Hills ARC Elmer Net |
| 22 Earth Day QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net WASH FM Net WASH Digital Net | 23 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Srvc. Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net | 24 Triangle ARC Meeting Mercer Co ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Club Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap'N Shop Net | 25 Secretaries Day North Hills ARC Activity Ft.Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES | 26 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting | 27 This date intentionally left unscheduled. | 28 WASH Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net |
| 29 WACOM Hamfest QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net WASH FM Net WASH Digital Net | 30 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Srvc. Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net | 5/1 May Day SHB&M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting North Hills ARC Club Net SATERN Net | 5/2 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co SkyWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES | 5/3 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting | 5/4 Elco RS Meeting | 5/5 RA Erie VE Tests WPA Hilltoppers/Panther ARC VE Tests North Hills ARC Elmer Net |

WASH 2001 OFFICERS

THE LEGAL STUFF

Executive Committee:

President
VP/Secretary
VP/Treasurer

And We Couldn't Do It Without:

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee
N3SH / WA3SH QSL Manager
VE Team Liaison
Webmaster
Quartermaster
N3SH/WA3SH WASH Net Managers
FM Net (2 Meter & 70 cm)
Digital (10 Meter)

WASHFest 2002 Co-Chairman
(South Hills Hamfest)

Operating Events Chairman

Field Day 2001 Chairman

Ways & Means

Media Communications

Club-Affiliated Repeaters:

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------|----------|
| Mt. Lebanon | N3RNX/R | 146.955 - | PL 131.8 |
| Mt. Lebanon | W3SRL/R | 442.550 + | PL 131.8 |
| Canonsburg | N3FFP/R | 443.650 + | PL 131.8 |

N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

The **10 Meter Digital N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet** meets on **28.105 MHz** at **9:30 PM ET** following the conclusion of the FM net. (Frequency is +/- QRM)
All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

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The **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.** was founded in 1993 as the original **South Hills Amateur Radio Club**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH Amateur Radio Club**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way shape or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3FFP/R Repeater System for permitting the **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test April 19th!

Our Next VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, April 19th, 2001**, at **7:00 PM**, at the *John McMillan Presbyterian Church*, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, PA. Talk-in on 146.955 MHz. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Jacqué Gosselin N3ZNI: Telephone (724)-746-9235 or E-Mail: n3zel@fyi.net

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of **\$10.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Want to work
NA1SS?

The ARISS
Team has
received special
permission to
declare a
Special Event
for Amateur
Radio on the
International
Space Station,
on April 12th.

The ARISS
Team is asking
the Expedition 2
crew, on a
voluntary basis,
to conduct
general QSO's
as time permits.

More details on
the ARISS web
page:
<http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov>

In recent months, I've printed in the WASHRag the names & calls (if applicable) of successful candidates of our VE test sessions. The intent was nothing more than to seek to congratulate them on their achievement.

However, a good friend from another club recently sent this to me:

I used to publish the same information in our newsletter until I was not so politely informed that it is illegal to do so until the results are released by the FCC unless the candidate has signed a written release consenting to having his or her result published. This also means that you can never publish the fact that a person failed a test or that a person passed an element where no FCC action was taken, ie. a Technician licensee passes element 3 but not element 1. This gets him /her credit for the General written but not an upgrade so no FCC action is taken and the result is not released by the FCC.

This hasn't been a problem in the past until the last newsletter, as the short amount of time between the WASHfest VE test & publishing the March 2001 issue came before the FCC database was updated with the results. Still, that is no excuse. And as I have no desire, of course, to violate FCC rules even on a technicality, pending clarification or unless I am notified otherwise, the listing of successful candidates prior to their being listed in the FCC database will be discontinued.

While I'd prefer not to name him in print, my thanks to the gentleman who took the time & trouble to let me know about this BEFORE I got myself into any legal hot water! And my apologies to anyone concerned over this error.

— Ron Notarius WN3VAW

Meeting Change! Because of the observance of Maundy Thursday, John McMillan Presbyterian Church is not available to us on April 12th. Thanks to the efforts of Steve W3SRL, we will instead be meeting in the Meeting Room of the Mount Lebanon Fire Department, 710 Washington Road. Park in the municipal parking garage next door (bring your ticket in with you) and enter via the side door on the far side of the building. Special thanks also to MtLFD for being kind enough to accommodate us!

The Breakfast Club met on March 31st to a cool morning for our monthly get-together, at King's Family Restaurant on McMurray Road. Present this month were WASH members K3VX, KB3CPI, KB3ENX, KB3EPC, N3RNX, W3RJM, W3WH, & WN3VAW, joined by W4ZE — and this time we all got to sit together, too! Our next Club Breakfast will be Saturday, April 28th (day before the WACOM hamfest), at the Eat'N'Park Restaurant on Route 19 at Donaldson's Crossroads. Hope you can make it!

Suggestions for future breakfasts include the King's at Raceway Plaza in Heidelberg, the King's at Route 60 & I-79, Dietz's Restaurant in Caste Village, and the Denny's at South Park. Know of anywhere else that's willing to accommodate a dozen or so hungry hams on a Saturday morning? Let a club officer know!

Feeling a little blue today? Over on Page 4 is our monthly listing of club members. If you're getting the WASHRag electronically, you'll notice that many calls are shown in blue. This indicates a current member whose dues for 2001 have been paid. If you're still in black, you haven't paid for the year yet. (If you consider yourself a club member and aren't shown at all, then you didn't pay dues in 2000 either!) If this is an error, please contact Mark N3RDV immediately so that we can straighten it out. But otherwise, please send Mark your renewal check today. We're much stronger with you than without you, and we really do want you back. Really. Honest. No kidding!

What the well dressed ham wears to Field Day. As mentioned on Page 1, the ARRL is currently selling FD 2001 pins & T-Shirts. The cost is \$10 per shirt (Adult sizes M thru 2X), plus S&H. While a group order won't save us anything on the shirts or pins themselves, it will keep the S&H costs down. If you're interested in being part of a group order, see WN3VAW or N3RDV at the April or May meetings, so that we can place the order(s) in time to ensure that you'll look sharp at Field Day!

N3KEX on the mend. Ed N3KEX hasn't been around much the last year or so as work related travel has been sending him around the country. But he's currently home and on the mend following surgery on March 26th to remove some stomach tumors. Ed is under orders to stay home & take it easy until mid-April, but he hopes to make an upcoming club meeting and is really looking forward to the Breezeshooters' hamfest this year! You can drop Ed a line at ehutton@consultant.com while he's recuperating.

Upcoming Hamfest Q&A (Or, quick answers to short questions): **YES**, many WASH members will be set up at the 2001 WACOM Hamfest if you'd like to share a table with us. **YES**, many WASH members will be at Dayton Hamvention (146.955 Simplex). **YES**, we're planning another WASH Picnic at Breezeshooters. **NO**, WN3VAW promises no more wisecracks about the food vendor...

WASH 2001 Dues are PAST DUE! Don't put it off, renew your membership today!

Minutes, March 8th Meeting

Paul Lusardi NØVLR, Vice President/Secretary WASH

The meeting was called to order at 19:10 by WN3VAW. There were 28 members and 8 guests present.

A moment of silence was observed for recent Silent Key's and other deserving persons.

Introductions were then made all around, as is our custom.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the February meeting as published in the newsletter was made by Bob W3RJM and seconded by Dick N3QMV and then carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): No report.

Secretary (NØVLR): Various forms available as handouts

VE Team (N3ZNI): Swamped at hamfest with VE Candidates. Next test April 19th.

Repeaters (W3SRL & N3RNX): 440 Repeater is ready for move. Moves will be soon, most likely during 9 – 5 hours; they will need help, will notify as soon as they know when.

FM Net (K3OL): No Report

Digital Net (NØVLR for N3BSQ): A digital demo is scheduled for an upcoming meeting.

Activities (W3WH) Anyone interested in adding events to club activities?

WASHest Wrapup (W3WH & W3SRL): Club made a healthy profit, saw a 10% increase in attendance from last year. Bake sale netted money to replenish the repeater fund. Lessons learned include keeping forums in same building if possible.

Contests (WN3VAW): Prefix contest at end of March, WN3VAW looking for any interested operators for his QTH.

Field Day (W3SRL for K3VX): Reserved Mt. Lebanon Park for FD site if we want to use it. Site free this year, there will be a permit fee next year.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): No report

President (WN3VAW): N3SBF has secured a classroom at Brentwood Presbyterian Church; he needs reimbursed \$50 fee. Motion carried unanimously. Butler Co ARA sponsoring a bus trip to Dayton including rooms at University of Dayton.

Old Business: None

New Business: Steve W3SRL motioned to continue insurance coverage. Seconded by N3ZNI & carried unanimously.

Good of the Order: N3IDH reported that WACOM has a new web site, www.wacomarc.org courtesy of N3ZNI. They are looking for interest in a 6 Meter Net. WACOM Hamfest is on April 29th, main prize is an HTX-10 with mobile antenna, other prizes including a Lightning Bolt antenna.

Motion to adjourn made by Paul NØVLR, seconded by NØPEU and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 20:05

Pizza consumption commenced!

Presentation by

Konrad W3KK on amateur radio's role in the UPMC/City of Pittsburgh Marathon. Konrad requested additional operators for this year's event (see article Page 9) on May 6th.



for this year's event (see article Page 9) on May 6th.

Update: One Saturday, Two Talks

Info Courtesy of Allan Harden N3UML & Chuck Gessner KC3ET

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH will be the guest speaker at two talks in the Pittsburgh area, both to be held on Saturday, April 14th.

The first meeting, sponsored by the South West PA Packet Group and the Monessen ARC, will be held at the Blue Flame Restaurant on PA Route 51 in Pleasant Hills, about 2 miles south of the Century III Mall, starting at 10 AM. Seating is limited to about 150 persons, so reservations are limited. Please contact Gino WA3IOU geno@zelie.com for more information.

The second meeting, sponsored by the Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club W3OC, will be held at the Palace Inn in Monroeville, starting at 6 PM. The Palace Inn is near the corner of US 22 and PA Route 48, about a mile from the Turnpike interchange. Seating is also limited and will be on a first-come first-served basis. More information is available on the W3OC BBS Calendar.

Monthly WASH Breakfast

Saturday, April 29th



Please join us for the next WASH Breakfast! We're going to get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, and just have a good time together!



We'll be rotating the location until we find one that suits most everyone. This month, we'll be at the **Eat 'n' Park Restaurant** on Route 19 in by Donaldson's Crossroads. Start time is about 8 AM until whenever. Monitor 146.955 for talk-in or any last minute changes. All are welcome, WASH members or not, amateurs or not! Hope to see you there!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| AA3FI | KB3ERQ | N3RNX | N3ZEG | WN3BOJ |
| AA3JS | KB3FNM | N3SBF | N3ZEH | WN3VAW |
| K3BZW | KB3FQT | N3TBK | N3ZEL | |
| K3LIE | KB3FZU | N3TES | N3ZNI | Carol Danko |
| K3OL | KD3JV | N3UE | N4MIS | Dan Mohr |
| K3VX | KE3XB | N3UIW | NP2JF | JoAnn Cottrell |
| K3WR | KQ3DX | N3VEH | W3GEL | Marilyn Nizinski |
| KA3TFB | NØPEU | N3VVL | W3HND | |
| KA3TWI | NØVLR | N3VWF | W3JAF | K3EED (SK) |
| KA3UPY | NØWPV | N3WPT | W3RJM | N3KEH (SK) |
| KA3WZO | N2QIV | N3XFE | W3SRL | N3OBD (SK) |
| KB3ANH | N3BSQ | N3XI | W3VFA | W3ZLK (SK) |
| KB3CPI | N3CCC | N3YPB | W3WH | |
| KB3DCO | N3CZZ | N3YQY | WA3JPP | |
| KB3DSB | N3IDH | N3ZCG | WB3BPH | |
| KB3DSD | N3KFD | | | |
| KB3ECD | N3Mjq | | | |
| KB3ENX | N3QMV | | | Through March 31 st , 2001 |
| KB3EPC | N3RDV | | | List compiled by |
| KB3EPI | N3RHT | | | Mark Stabryla N3RDV |
| | | | | Vice President/Treasurer |

What Happened to AO - 40?

As you are aware, Phase 3D was launched on November 16, 2001, into an almost perfect geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO) by an Arianespace launch vehicle (AR-507) from Kourou, French Guiana. Within a few hours of launch excellent telemetry was being received from the 2-meter beacon, and Amateur Radio stations worldwide started downloading data with great accuracy, due in-part to the strong signal strength. The original plan was to use the 70-cm beacon, however, for reasons not yet known, the 70-cm transmitter signal was not heard.

Before the satellite could be regularly used for general Amateur Radio communications, it was necessary to carry out orbital changes, stabilize the satellite, open the solar panels, etc. The first changes to the orientation of the satellite were carried out using the onboard magnetorquing system--this worked well and after relatively few orbits the attitude of (now) AO-40 was 270/0, and ready for operation of the 400-newton motor. Among the many components which comprise this motor system, there are several valves which control pressurizing helium and fuel. During construction of the satellite it was noted that one of the helium valves had a tendency to "stick" when operated. Both of these valves were sent back to the manufacturer for inspection and repair. Both valves were inspected and one valve was repaired, followed by return and re-installation into the system.

On the first attempt to fire the 400-N propulsion system, it failed to operate, possibly due to a sticking helium valve. Before the second attempt, it was determined that the fuel tanks could be pressurized (by helium) to their correct pressure over a five minute period, and although this was about one-tenth of the normal helium flow rate, it was still adequate for the planned three minute motor burn.

On the second attempt to fire the 400-N motor, all systems appeared to respond correctly at first. At the three minute mark the internal timer transmitted a signal for the main solenoid valve to close, which should have shut off the fuel to the motor. Telemetry shows that the signal was sent and received, but the motor did not shut off for two or three more minutes, placing AO-40 into a higher apogee orbit than was planned at that time.

To understand how this may have happened, it is necessary to be aware that the fuel for the 400-N motor is made up of two components, hydrazine (MMH) and nitrogen tetroxide (N2O4), with each component contained in two separate tanks, both of which could be pressurized by helium. Helium could also be applied to the solenoid motor valve, the output of which operates the two fuel valves which start (and stop) the fuel flow. These valves are actually part of the 400-N motor and are located inside the motor itself.

On the solenoid motor valve there is an evacuation port that allows excess helium at the output port of the valve to escape when closing the valve. It is believed that this evacuation port was blocked and that the output port remained pressurized beyond the three-minute mark of the motor operation--thus the motor continued to burn for an extended period of time.

Between the fuel tanks and the 400-newton motor there are fuel isolation valves which are pressure-operated by the helium system. When the pressure in the helium manifold had been reduced to approximately 6 Bar (100 PSI), the fuel isolation valves closed and prevented any additional fuel from entering the motor, stopping the burn. At this time it is possible that the main motor valves were still open, due to the trapped pressurized helium that had not vented at the solenoid motor valve.

Approximately 12 minutes after the motor shut down, a second anomaly occurred. This was detected when the motor solenoid valve changed from closed to open, possibly caused by fuel migrating in the lines between the isolation valve and the 400-N motor. The motor could have also "burped" or "popped" as the fuel mixed and then ignited.

High pressure helium (180 Bar) is fed to the motor system via a high-pressure on/off valve and a regulator valve--reducing the pressure to a nominal 15 Bar level. It is then fed to the low-pressure helium manifold. Because of the longer 400-N burn, a program for testing the high pressure helium valve was written to "cycle" the valve (to insure proper functioning) and uploaded to AO-40.

On December 11, 2000, while cycling the helium valve, a sudden loss of signal from AO-40 occurred. It is believed that during this exercise the system became

Report issued by Robin Haighton VE3FRH, President, AMSAT-NA

pressurized and that a leakage of fuel was the end result. Initial thoughts were that the spacecraft was completely dead and that chances of recovery were remote, with the possibility that AO-40 was in multiple pieces. However, with help from NORAD, it was determined that the satellite was in one piece and still in its known orbit, with a possibility of some recovery. At least two automatic resets passed without hearing from the spacecraft. It was decided to try and hear the general beacon on the S-band (2.4 GHz) transmitter. On Christmas Day 2000 the second attempt to activate the S-band transmitter was successful, and since that day downlink telemetry has been recovered on a regular basis.

The following items have been found to be working; the 2-meter, 70-cm and 1.2 GHz receivers, the S-2 (2.4 GHz) transmitter, the magnetorquing system, the YACE camera, IHU-2 and the high-gain antennas. The following items are believed not to be working; the 2-meter and 70-cm transmitters and the omni-directional antennas.

At the time of this bulletin (March 16, 2001) we still do not know the status of the arc-jet motor — which is an important item, needed to position the satellite for future use. We do know that the satellite has lost mass, and we attribute this to the loss of bi-propellant fuel from the 400-N motor.

The satellite spin rate had increased as the overall weight decreased, but by using the magnetorquing system the spin rate is now nearly down to a usable 5 RPM. In addition, the heat pipe system (which became unusable at the higher spin rates) has now become effective again.

Soon AO-40 will be able to be re-oriented so that the high-gain antennas will face the Earth, and the Arc-jet motor will be tested.

Following the re-orientation it will be possible to test the remaining systems on board the spacecraft and to determine which systems and bands will be available for future operations and under what conditions.

As we all learn more about the status of the satellite, additional bulletins will be posted on AMSAT-BB, and placed on the AMSAT-NA, AMSAT-DL and AMSAT-UK web sites. Meanwhile, all those involved in the recovery of AO-40 are to be congratulated for their skills and perseverance, and may their hard work continue to bring us an operational satellite.



Initial thoughts were that the AO40 was gone with remote chances of recovery.

But once the antennas are re-oriented, it should be possible to test the bird to see which systems and bands will be available in the future

SAY HELLO TO NEW SOUTHWEST PA AREA CODE 878!

- Numbers in the new area code will not be assigned until after July 12, 2001.
- Your existing area code and phone number are not changing.
- Your telephone rates will not be affected.
- Local calling areas are not changing. What is a local call today, remains a local call with the new area code.
- Dialing 911 is not affected in any way.
- You should start thinking of your phone number as a ten-digit number.
- You should try to get and give an area code with all phone numbers.
- The permissive dialing or "grace period" started July 17, 2000. You may now start to dial calls using ten digits.
- The grace period will end July 12, 2001 & any call you make today using 7 digits must be dialed with 10 digits on & after that date.
- You will be required to dial 10 digits within & between 412, 724 & 878.
- You will no longer need to dial 11 digits (1 + Area Code + Number) for calls between 412 & 724, but if you do, the calls will still go through.
- After July 12, 2001, any call that's not correctly dialed will go to a recorded announcement reminding you to dial the area code.

— Information courtesy of Verizon (formerly Bell Atlantic & GTE), AT&T, and North Pittsburgh Telephone companies

2001 Annual Meeting, Western Pennsylvania Chapter

DX Hoggery & Poetry Depreciation Society

Larson E. Rapp III K3IOU*

Three Rivers Stadium, North Side, Pittsburgh PA, 6:45 AM, February 11th: Legions of local, county, state police & the FBI will be staking out Paul Long Hall in vain on April 1st, as the WPA Chapter of the DX Hoggery & Poetry Depreciation Society moved up its annual meeting to take advantage of a special day and a unique opportunity.

Dodging debris as we entered the long-closed Theatre of Pittsburgh Sports Legends & Hall of Fame, the only remaining functioning room in the stadium, the multitude gathered for a special morning of meter and mayhem.

With little delay, the guest speakers were introduced: Ira & Ima Hack, husband and wife authors of a series of "knock off" novels that usually ended up as the inspiration for bad soft-core skin flicks shown on Friday evenings on the Sin-A-Bit pay movie services.

Ira Hack started off discussing their first big novel, the story of a homicidal Idaho sweet potato farmer, "The Silence of the Yams." Only moments later, Dave W9LYA arose and pronounced:

*A Icelandic YL known as Inger
Did not in this vale of tears linger
Her finals blew out,
She started to pout
And checked the B+ with her finger*

A spinning black-and-gold steel plated Rettysnitch dispatched him at once.

Ima Hack picked up with their first Pittsburgh based story, the sordid tale of a murderous couple at a Heinz packing facility, "The Silence of the Cans." Meanwhile, Garry NI6T stood to deliver this little ditty:

*There once was a DXer named Clive,
Who snared a CQing P5.
He gave his name as Kim,
But he was really a "Slim",
So Clive's P5 was just jive.*

Before he could duck for cover, a multitude of Terrible Towels buried Garry where he stood.

Next, the Hack's both discussed the serial killer who based his operations at the remnants of the Skybus demonstration track at the South Park Fair grounds, "The Silence of the Trans." Completely ignoring the Hacks, Chas W5DV belted out over the noise

*A hapless homebrewer named Clive
Is lucky that he's still alive.
"The DX'ers here lately
All berate me, and hate me,
Just for tuning up on 14.195."*

A Gunner-autographed Heinz barrel full of mildewed authentic Green Weenies was dumped over Chas, with the barrel itself bounced off his noggin for good measure as he collapsed.

The Hacks together began a short soliloquy on a work in progress held up in litigation. It was a Science Fiction story taking place in the Star Wars universe, taking place between movies 5 & 6: "The Silence of the Hans." With a groan, W5DV emerged from the Green Weenies & continued,

*Frank's standing jumped like a gazelle
Right after his girlfriend, Michelle
To win the Desoto,
Took a racy, nude photo,
And put it on his QSL.*

A lever was thrown by an unseen hand, and Chas was re-buried once & for all under a bevy of "beat-em-Buc's" bubushka's.

Ima then brought up her solo effort about a group of murderous elderly baby sitters, "The Silence of the Grams," and Ira's companion solo effort about death and swimsuit modeling in Venice, "The Silence of the Gams." Richy KB2CPW took his turn in the spotlight:

*There once was a guy with a Hallicrafters,
Elusive signals were what he was after,
Like a silly old fool
he touched an output tube
and ended up in ham hereafter*

A 55 gallon drum of Heinz Stadium Ketchup was pried open, and Richy was tossed in head first.

Finally, Ira Hack revealed their purpose in coming. They wanted to base their next novel on the legendary exploits of the DXH&PDS! It was to be titled: "Poetry & Mayhem: The Silence of the Hams" A former police dispatcher from Canada climbed atop a small pile of bodies and proclaimed:

*Another DX'er named Clive
Decided to pirate P5
When they learned they'd been had
His fate was quite sad
Honey covered, staked by the ant hive*

Several Maulers-purple colored Wouff Hongs missed his head as he slid down the pile and headed in the general direction of Canada. Pity he slipped on those broken 1625's on the floor.

It was now past 7:45 AM. The final warning blast had sounded. Suddenly, piles of Astro-Turf left over from the Immaculate Reception game (from the other side of the field) were dumped on our honored guests, knocking them unconscious as they were buried. Quickly, we all put on our hard hats and flak jackets and exited the auditorium, fleeing the structure. We blended in with the workers (easy, as many of us had signed on with the contractor as temporary help) and headed for points of safety. With the crowd chanting the countdown on live local, regional, and national television, the moment of truth, 8:00 AM arrived.



Several short explosions, 15 seconds and a cloud of dust, and the Hacks themselves were forever silenced. And the best part was, we let the stadium demolition crews do it for us, in front of an audience and on national television in front of millions!

As the remnants of Three Rivers Stadium spread a dust cloud over the cheering crowd, we all removed our hard hats and quietly disbursed into the morning for another year.

*With apologies to Rod Newkirk W9BRD & in fond remembrance of the original tales of the DXH&PDS from QST's of years long past

(Continued from page 1)

No. But we have work to do.

WASH can't solve the entire problem, but we can start addressing it here. For starters, we need to start letting the public in on what we do, why we do it, and when and where we do it. We need to ourselves more visible to the public in general — not just at all of the public service events we do, but elsewhere. The booth our friends in WACOM had at the Washington County Sportsman's Show is an excellent example, a chance to show off and educate the public in a positive way about us. Amateur Radio in general and WASH in particular need to do more things like that. If you have any ideas on things we can (and should) do, let one of us know.

The media plays a tremendous role in public perception, so anything we can do to present the club and Amateur Radio in a positive light is welcome. Kevin N3KFD has volunteered to be our Media Communications person, and in that role, he will be our primary contact with the media, both to put out news about the club and our events, but also to answer questions from the media about us. Kevin is has done a great job so far, but he can't do it all himself. He needs help — newspaper (daily & weekly), magazine, radio and TV contacts, information on how to get on Cable bulletin boards, and anything else related. If you have a little time to help out, let us know.

It's very easy, as some pundits do, to sit back and say "why me? This is the ARRL's job — let the League do it!" Frankly, I despise that attitude. Usually when someone says or writes that, by "The League" they mean the ARRL Headquarters staff in Newington. The Hq. Staff work very hard at the administrative functions that keep ARRL going, but they are not the League.

The League is it's members. We are the League. To say "Not me! Let the League do it!" is counterproductive. If we don't do it, no one else will.

...you're not a member of the ARRL? A surprisingly large percentage of Amateurs aren't. That's truly a shame, because frankly, the ARRL as a whole is all we've got for a National Amateur Radio Society. Ultimately, if we splinter and don't support the organization... well, have you ever heard of "divide and conquer"?

Now, while I support the ARRL fully, I don't do so blindly. Has the League officers and policy setters ever made a mistake. Yup, they've made some real whoppers over the years. Some people react to that by turning their backs, by voting with their wallets and withdrawing from or never joining the ARRL. But that never solves anything. You see, we're lucky, being part of the Atlantic Division, in that our current Division Director and the past two Division Directors (at least) want to and encourage us to contact them and express our opinions pro & con. I've done so often over the years (I think that Hugh W3ABC used to & still dreads getting another letter from me!), and I'd like to think that that's had some influence. I've often heard from amateurs in other parts of the country that their Division Directors are not as accessible... and funny, many of those folks griping don't belong to ARRL. Coincidence? (And yes, it is unfortunate that dues are going up later this year, but they've made a strong case for it, and the dues still work out to less than \$3.50 a month per ham... so don't let that stop you!)

But I digress. For good or ill, ARRL is our National presence, and they need our support and our feedback. Even so, the ARRL Officers & Staff can't solve these problems. We have to solve them, here at our local level.

We know that we are still relevant to the public, even if the current public perception is otherwise. Bottom line is that to most of the public, the attitude can often be "What Have You Done for ME Lately?" Well, we can't sit back and wait for them to discover it. We have to show them. And that, we have to go out and do ourselves.

73, Ron Notarius WN3VAW, President
Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH/WA3SH

2000 PA QSO Party Results

Final results for the 2000 PA QSO Party went in the mail at the end of March. WASH overall did very well, placing 18th in the Club Competition, with 7 entries and 165,632 cumulative points. The total number of entries was down for many reasons, including some last minute cancellations or rescheduling due to work commitments, but was also balanced in part by having two club multi-op stations on the air (three if you count Steel City ARC's W3KWH, which was manned by many club members). We'll do better this year!

Here's how the WASH entries faired:

Single Operator Stations:

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| W3WH | Washington County | 25,543 | 1 st Place & Club |
| N3UE | Allegheny County | 13,578 | 6 th Place |
| N3ZNI | Mobile Division | 12,920 | 9 th Place |
| KB3FBG | Washington County | 10,232 | 2 nd Place |
| WN3VAW | Forest County | 6,932 | 1 st Place (*) |

Multi-Operator Stations:

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| N3SH | Clarion County | 60,677 | 1 st Place |
| WA3SH | Washington County | 35,750 | 1 st Place |

Winner of the WASH Sponsored plaque for WPA High Power was, once again, K3CR with 286,828 points and had a clean sweep of all 67 PA Counties (one of 57 stations to do so). And we should make special note of Multi-Multi K3II in Monroe County of the Carbon ARC, who worked 67 Counties, 81 Sections & the DX multiplier — the highest number of multipliers ever!

Our thanks to everyone in the Nittany ARC, the PA QSO Sponsor, for their hard work this & every year to make this the best state QSO party in the country! Special thanks to 2000 PAQP Chairman Woody Brem K3YV, who handled a very tough job under pressure with his usual grace and style. And special thanks also to retiring "mug master" Ed WA3SES.

Next year's PAQP Chairman will be John Walters W3JAW, and the Scranton Pocono Amateur Radio Klub (SPARK) will be hosting the 2001 special event (bonus points) station.

The 2001 PA QSO Party will be on October 13th & 14th. Mark you calendar and start thinking about where you'd like to operate from!



Steve W3SRL/4 operating QRP from the Outer Banks. See how he did it at our next meeting!
Photo by Sandy Lane N3ZEG ©2000, 2001 Steve & Sandy Lane

The photo on Page 6 was received via email uncredited. If anyone knows for certain the origin of this photo, please notify the editor so that it can be properly credited in a future newsletter.

PWØS St. Peter & Paul Rocks

Bill Smith W9VA / PYØZFO

"The Rocks" are actually the rim of a submerged volcano some 700 miles off the coast of Brazil in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The actual land mass is a small irregular broken volcanic reef. There is a reason for PYØS being number 26 on the DX Magazine 2000 "Most Needed" list. Under optimum conditions it is difficult to get to, difficult to land on, difficult to find a level area to set up a station, just plain difficult. The risk of damage to equipment and bodies is not insignificant.

Nevertheless, Jim PY7XC, Ciro PY7ZY, and Eli PT7BZ, started out from Recife on February 3 on the 49 foot motor/sailer "Old Smuggler," stopping off briefly at Fernando de Noronha for a rest and minor repairs. While there Andre, PYØFF, decided to join the group.

They arrived at The Rocks on the morning of February 9, finding the sea much too rough to even consider landing. Imagine the frustration at arriving one of the rarest DX sites in the world with a boat full of equipment and being unable to land. Then imagine bobbing around in this small boat for three more days waiting for a break in the weather. At this point many (most? all?) of us would have said "To Hell With It" and headed for home. They didn't.

The seas subsided enough on the morning of Monday February 12 to attempt a landing, and they were able to get some equipment ashore and operating by 2100Z. The bad weather continued with high winds, lightning and rain, frequently interrupting operations.

Because of the three day delay in landing, by Friday February 16 the group was already way overdue getting home to their families and jobs. Supplies were running out. The weather was such that they could safely get themselves and equipment off the Rocks, and the sensible decision was made to leave. Their bad luck continued as the boat encountered problems on the way home, and it was necessary for three operators to fly from Fernando de Noronha to Recife, further adding to the expense.

The final QSO count was around 7,800. Obviously that is well below expectations, but still 7,800 contacts that would have not been made at all without incredible courage & devotion to our hobby. Many picked up an "all-time-new-one," the real objective of this operation. Others gained a rare country on a new band or mode. An effort was made to spend at least a little time on all bands, all modes, including RTTY. I have particular respect for the DX'ers who were not in the pileups so that others would have a better shot at a new one.

Many of us have carried or shipped our FT-1000's & Alpha's down to a Caribbean island or walked into a well-equipped air-conditioned turnkey shack for a little fun in the sun & the thrill of being at the other end of the pile-up. Now picture the opposite end of that — PWØS was a grass roots, low budget operation to one of the rarest and most difficult uninhabitable pieces of rock in the world. Well-used equipment was scrounged together from many sources, laptops were borrowed, favors were called-in.

The call signs of these four fellows may not have instant recognition,

Look for Middle School students operating from NI4BK, Radio Central on the Battleship North Carolina (original Navy callsign NIBK) on April 11th, 18th & 25th from 1300Z to 1600Z. Suggested operating frequencies are 7.230, 14.260 & 28.560 MHz. Send a legal size SASE for the QSL card which will include a picture of the battleship, facts and history about it, and pictures of the student operators. — N2WG

DX News Briefs

A luxury hotel on **KH1**? Several DX'ers were recently fooled by a web site for "The Republic of the Howard and Baker Islands Tourist Information Page." If you want a chuckle, check this site out: <http://users.metro2000.net/~stabbott/Visithowlandbaker.htm>



If you're interested in Island chasing and IOTA, while there is at present no IOTA reflector, there is one on Islands in general. To access the reflector, go to the following web page for more info: <http://forum.radio-amador.net/mailman/listinfo/island> — I4EAT via KF2TI

Following many complaints, QSL'ing for **XF4MX** is now via XE1X; RADIO CLUB MEXICANO, A.C.; P.O. Box # 19-500/510; Mixcoac, Mexico D.F., 03910 Mexico. — N7HIY & many others

ZK1CG South Cooks is again QRV. QSL Direct — ZK1CG

PA1AW is manager for **5A24PA** only. Cards will be printed after the end of the special activity and after logs are received. QSL only direct; no bureau requests will be honored at this time. **5A1A** QSL's should still be sent direct via Registered Mail — PA1AW

All **VB2R** QSLs sent to NB1B were mailed March 15th. QSLs sent to VE3BY were mailed March 16th — NB1B

Some useful tips on direct QSLing into Russia & CIS can be found at <http://www.qsl.net/rz1ak/mail.html> — RZ1AK

The Sir Francis Drake Report:

Active on April 1st were the usual stalwarts from the Coax Islands: **RG8A**, **RG8AU**, **RG8U**, **RG8X**, & **RG58AU**. **PHØNY**, **APR1L**, **FOØL** & **FØOL** were also heard, and over on the digital modes, **R2D/2** was heard chirping at **C3PO**. Finally, **CH1PS** was heard from the Potato Islands.

QSL Routes:

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| GM7V via ZS5BBO — KBØMZG | EI7M via EI6HB — K4UTE |
| GJ2A via MJØBJU — MJØBJU | PJ2T via KN7Y — K4UTE |
| M6T via G4PIQ — G4PIQ | OE2S via OE2GEN — OE2GEN |
| RU1A via RU1AE — XQ1IDM | IR4T via IK2IEE — AC4ET |
| 5T5YD via F6FYD — W3BJ | 9DØRR via NT2X — W9IXX |
| 5A/UYØMF via UX5MZ — RA3DNC | P43P via I2MOP — AA5XE |
| J38A via K4LTA — K4LTA | 5N99MSV via OK1JR — AA5XE |
| J38X via K1XX — KI4RU | ZF1WD via G4RWD — G4RWD |
| 9MØM via K7XN not K7XM — K7XM | TE8AA via TI4HQ — NL8272 |
| 0I3AY via OH1BV — N4GN | V73E via WF5T — VK2CE |

Look for **V73E** from Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Island Group (OC-087) on April 19th - 26th. QSL cards go to WF5T. The team will be using the usual IOTA frequencies on a 24 hour basis. Inquiries to tommeier@open.org. QSL Via WF5T — K7ZZ via VK2CE

QSL Manager KD8IW has announced that as of April 1st, he will no longer send or receive bureau cards for any station that he handles. He blames this on the increase in ARRL dues, higher fees for the outgoing QSL bureau service, and the general increase in postal fees. He did not indicate which calls he manages — KD8IW

The March 2001 issue of National Geographic has a "nice" article on Palmyra Island (**KH5**) — KF2HC

Need Gibralter? Expect to find **ZB2/DL7AFS & ZB2/DJ7ZG** on RTTY, PSK and SSB on 10 through 80 from April 23rd – 30th. QSL via home calls — DJ7ZG

Need Trinidad? Look for **9Y4/N2IM** from April 26rd – May 4th. He expects to be QRV on 20, 15, 10 & 6, maybe more, with 100 Watts, early mornings & late evenings. QSL via N2IM — N2IM

Pittsburgh Marathon 2001

Konrad Kammerer W3KK w3kk@aol.com

As you know, amateur radio is a valuable communication resource to our community in times of need. Whether responding to a disaster or providing communications for public service events, amateur radio has always been there to contribute its time, manpower and equipment to a variety of events. As an ARRL affiliated club, you set the example for public service both within the ranks of amateur radio and in your community.

The UPMC Medical Center/City of Pittsburgh Marathon has again requested amateur radio support for this event. The marathon is scheduled for **Sunday, May 6, 2001**. Amateur radio has been a vital part of the success of previous marathons. Unfortunately, over the past few years the number of amateur radio volunteers for the marathon has dropped off considerably.

To become part of this event, you can register electronically by going to <http://www.cs.pitt.edu/~hoffman/marathon.html>. We will be needing at least 150 volunteers to cover the Mile, Aid Station, Shadow and Vehicle assignments. If this will be your first time, we will pair you with an experienced operator. All you will need is your 2 mtr or 440 HT or mobile unit. As in the past, assignments will be mailed the week of the marathon. We will also have our pre race get together the day before the race to pass out shirts, hats, credentials and answer any question you might have. There will also be a volunteer appreciation party a few weeks after the event.

Once again, The UPMC Medical Center/City of Pittsburgh Marathon would like to present plaques to the Amateur Radio Clubs that provide the highest percentage of volunteers for the marathon. This year, 3 plaques will be awarded. In an effort to even the playing field, plaques will be awarded to the clubs that:

- [1] Have 50 or less members; or
- [2] Have between 51 to 150 members; or
- [3] Have 151 members or more

The rules are simple:

- [1] Volunteers will indicate their Amateur Radio Club membership(s) on the amateur radio marathon application. Volunteers who belong to more than one club can indicate each club they belong to. Each club will receive credit for that member volunteering.
- [2] The Amateur Radio Clubs considered to be the winners will be those with the highest percentage of its members in each of the 3 categories who volunteer. The percentage of volunteers from each club will be based on the members who check in on the day of the event. The total number of club members will be determined by club information on the ARRL Club Member web site as of May 1st, 2001.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

FYI Networks

For Your Information needs

FYI Networks, an Internet Service Provider in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas since 1995, is offering all members of WASH their Basic Internet account for only \$18/month. This includes one e-mail box, 3 MB of disk space, web page hosting, Telnet & FTP access, and in some areas Toll-Free 500 Area Code service. Call FYI toll-free at 1-877-FYI-4NET, or e-mail them at sales@fyi.net, for more details or to sign up. You must mention that you are a member of the Wireless Association of South Hills to get the discount rate.

Many thanks to FYI Networks for making this special offer available to us for the past three years!

FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, March 30th, 2001 — The FCC has proposed levying a \$17,000 fine on an East Palo Alto, CA man for transmitting without a license on amateur frequencies and for transmitting a false distress signal. The FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture March 19 in the case of Josbie Yasin Nakamura Sr, who also is known as "Mervyn Ehambrave" and sometimes as "Marvin E. Barnes."



As Ehambrave, Nakamura was among those receiving an FCC Warning Notice in March 1999 for allegedly operating without a license on the K7IJ repeater system in the San Francisco Bay area. At the time, the FCC shut down the repeater system for more than two months, saying that the repeater's owner and control operator did not have proper control of the system and that the control operator was permitting unlicensed individuals to transmit via the machines.

The huge fine the FCC is proposing stems from complaints about Nakamura to the FCC dating back to late January through March of last year. The Commission says it heard from several Amateur Radio licensees and from members of the ARRL Amateur Auxiliary asserting that an unlicensed station was operating on several amateur frequencies without a license. Reports alleged that the operator was "causing interference by jamming and playing music," the FCC said.

In March 2000, agents from the FCC's San Francisco Field Office observed unidentified radio transmissions on 445.175 MHz and the international "SOS" distress signal being transmitted in Morse code. The agents tracked the signal to Nakamura's residence in East Palo Alto. During an inspection, agents found Nakamura was "operating the station without authorization from the Commission and Mr. Nakamura was not in distress," the FCC said. He was issued a Notice of Unlicensed Radio Operation at that time.

The FCC said it continued to get complaints last summer from Amateur Radio operators, including an ARRL Official Observer, about an unlicensed station on several amateur frequencies, including 146.63 MHz, allegedly causing interference and playing music. Last September, FCC agents observed transmissions on the 2-meter frequency and again tracked them to Nakamura's residence. Another inspection revealed that Nakamura was operating without authorization. He again was presented with a Notice of Unlicensed Radio Operation, the FCC said.

The FCC determined that its guidelines call for a \$10,000 fine for unlicensed operation and another \$7000 forfeiture for causing malicious interference. The FCC gave Nakamura 30 days to pay up or to seek reduction or cancellation of the proposed fine.

The K7IJ repeater case also involved assistance from the Amateur Auxiliary. The FCC permitted the K7IJ repeater system to resume operation in May 1999 after FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth struck an agreement with the owner and the control operator that involved close monitoring by the FCC and strict adherence to FCC rules and regulations.

The FCC is proposing to lower the fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14 to \$12. The new fee, if approved, likely would go into effect sometime in September. The effective date for the new FCC fee schedule will be announced later this year in a Report and Order or by a Public Notice published in the Federal Register.



WACOM Hamfest

Sunday, April 29th, 8:00 AM until 3 PM

Washington County Fairgrounds 4H Building

Talk-in on the 146.730 Repeater. Mobile Check-in on 146.52 Simplex.

Admission \$3.00 per person

Tables \$10 each — Tailgating \$5 per vehicle (weather permitting)

For more Information contact N3ZNI@arrl.net

Main Prizes (need not be present to win):

1st Prize: Radio Shack HTX-10 With HamStick & Diamond K-400 Mount
 2nd Prize: 4 Element 2M Quad from Lightning Bolt Antennas
 3rd Prize: A Pair of FRS Radios

Tickets In Danger : April

Do you know any of the amateurs listed below? According to the QRZ.COM web site, these are all hams whose tickets are about to expire. Once expired, they may not operate until they renew, and if they do not renew during the 2 year grace period...

If you know them, let them know. Hopefully they've just forgotten or their paperwork is in process.

This list was effective March 31st. Go to www.qrz.com for up to date information.

CALLSIGNS EXPIRING WITHIN 30 DAYS

KA3UCA 2001-04-09 CHRISTOPHER CHARLEY, GREENSBURG, PA
 KA3VIV 2001-04-30 KARL F. BEYER, CHURCHVILLE, PA
 KA3VMX 2001-04-30 CLIFFORD W. SCHAUB, BEAVER, PA
 KA3WNW 2001-04-30 BENJAMIN M. HILL, BUTLER, PA
 KA3YKN 2001-04-30 EDWARD C. KLINE, JR, MEADVILLE, PA
 KA3YSZ 2001-04-09 DAVID W. HOLLOWCAMP, ELLWOOD CITY, PA
 KA3YTL 2001-04-09 KATHLEEN L. HABEL, Belle Vernon, PA
 KA3YTM 2001-04-09 JOHN M. TONARELLI, BELLE VERNON, PA
 KA3YTS 2001-04-09 MALCOLM H. MC DONALD, PITTSBURGH, PA
 KA3YUB 2001-04-09 WILLIAM A. DROBILE, HOLLAND, PA
 KA3YUM 2001-04-16 TRISHA E. MILLER, CHADDS FORD, PA
 KA3YUZ 2001-04-16 CYRIL GROOM, ERIE, PA
 KA3WJ 2001-04-23 GWENDOLYN R. SCHMIDT, PITTSBURGH, PA
 KA3YWK 2001-04-23 JOSHUA A. BLATTER, PITTSBURGH, PA
 KA3YWL 2001-04-23 DAN F. DROPPA, PITTSBURGH, PA
 KA3YWO 2001-04-23 JANUSZ F. WOLANIN, KINGSTON, PA
 KA3YXF 2001-04-30 TERRY R. WINGFIELD, BUTLER, PA
 KD3WS 2001-04-30 JOHN W. BRADY, SAINT JOHNS, PA
 N3CDE 2001-04-23 WILLIAM D. SHELLHAMER, SUGARLOAF, PA
 N3ENP 2001-04-09 MICHAEL J. KOSINENKO, MOHRSVILLE, PA
 N3JDQ 2001-04-09 BRADLEY E. KLINE, AIRVILLE, PA
 N3JDW 2001-04-09 HOWARD J. MESICK, JR, HANOVER, PA
 N3JEV 2001-04-23 W JAMES COPPOCK, BROOKHAVEN, PA
 N3JFC 2001-04-23 PAUL A. BROWN, MILL CREEK, PA
 N3JFD 2001-04-23 JOHN A. MARCH, ALTOONA, PA
 N3JFK 2001-04-23 PAUL R. FLEISHER, MIFFLINTOWN, PA
 N3JFO 2001-04-30 DAVID G. HORSTMANN, CRAFTON, PA
 N3JFR 2001-04-30 GORDON T. HUMBERT, ROARING SPRING
 N3JGS 2001-04-30 DUANE R. LONG, SHICKSHINNY, PA
 N3JGU 2001-04-30 ROBERT T. BARR, BUTLER, PA
 N3JGW 2001-04-30 SIMON S. EDELSON, CHURCHVILLE, PA
 N3JGZ 2001-04-30 TIMOTHY G. BAUGHMAN, BUTLER, PA
 N3JHA 2001-04-30 MARK C. FLOYD, BEAVER FALLS, PA
 N3JHB 2001-04-30 GLENN W. PEIFFER, SOMERSET, PA
 N3JHD 2001-04-30 DEBORAH A. HENDERSON, PITTSBURGH, PA
 N3JHF 2001-04-30 TERRY K. LIM, PITTSBURGH, PA
 N3JHG 2001-04-30 SAMUEL E. GRIMM, JR, INDIAN HEAD, PA
 N3JHK 2001-04-30 DONALD E. BAYNHAM, JR, CLAIRTON, PA
 N3JHL 2001-04-30 DON A. GILMORE, GIBSONIA, PA
 N3JHM 2001-04-30 KORT N. ECKMAN, NORTH VERSAILLES, PA
 N3JHQ 2001-04-30 MARLIN W. SENENIG, DENVER, PA

N3JHT 2001-04-30 KEITH W. BELKE, PERKASIE, PA
 N3JHZ 2001-04-30 MARK A. SCHAUB, NEW CASTLE, PA
 N3JIC 2001-04-30 BOB J. HUFFMAN, CORAOPOLIS, PA
 N3JIG 2001-04-30 PAUL R. SHANER, BEAVER, PA
 WA3CMS 2001-04-23 JOHN S. REESE, ELIZABETHTOWN, PA
 WA3RVD 2001-04-16 MELVIN E. RUBLE, JR, PITTSBURGH, PA
 WB3DKH 2001-04-23 MARLENE A. WICKS, CLARK SUMMIT, PA
 WM3Y 2001-04-30 ADRIAN Y. ZACHARIASEWYCZ, WOODLYN, PA
 WN3B 2001-04-30 MICHAEL M. MC ELHINNY, BROOKVILLE, PA

CALLSIGNS THAT HAVE EXPIRED WITHIN THE PAST 30 DAYS

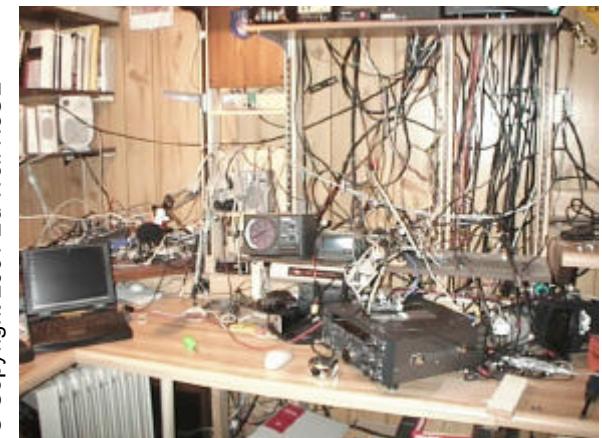
KA3YFQ 2001-03-12 MARY A. BAER, GLENNSHAW, PA
 KA3YOA 2001-03-05 MICHAEL W. BODE, MEADVILLE, PA
 KA3YOB 2001-03-05 TODD J. BEDDICK, MEADVILLE, PA
 KA3YOV 2001-03-12 BEN D. DITHRICH, MEADVILLE, PA
 KA3YOZ 2001-03-12 CHARLES R. MOWRY, BERLIN, PA
 KA3YPC 2001-03-12 KATHY L. MILLER, ALLISON PARK, PA
 KA3YPG 2001-03-19 CHRISTINE Y. TROUTMAN, ELIZABETHVILLE, PA
 KA3YPH 2001-03-19 YVONNE D. TROUTMAN, ELIZABETHVILLE, PA
 KA3YPO 2001-03-19 KARA T. JERMACANS, MORGANTOWN, PA
 KA3YPW 2001-03-19 THOMAS J. HERSHENSON, PITTSBURGH, PA
 KA3YQX 2001-03-26 CHARLES R. WATTS, JR, WASHINGTON, PA
 KA3YRK 2001-03-26 KEVIN P. HIETSCH, ALLISON PARK, PA
 KA3YRL 2001-03-26 DANIEL R. WALDO, PENN HILLS, PA
 KA3YRR 2001-03-31 DAVID L. LAMANSKY, WASHINGTON, PA
 KD3WG 2001-03-26 JOSEPH L. SREBRO, CLARKS SUMMIT, PA
 N3HKC 2001-03-26 JOHN L. HILL, PHOENIXVILLE, PA
 N3IBI 2001-03-19 BRADFORD S. PHILLIPS, ERIE, PA
 N3IQF 2001-03-19 LINDA M. SCHOOLS, BETHEL, PA
 N3ITQ 2001-03-05 CHRISTOPHER T. FULLER, ELIZABETHTOWN
 N3IYA 2001-03-12 DAVID N. FERRARO, JR, INDIANA, PA
 N3IYL 2001-03-12 BRIAN D. CURRY, CHESTER SPRINGS, PA
 N3IYS 2001-03-12 JOSEPH F. KLINE, III, PITTSBURGH, PA
 N3IYY 2001-03-12 LAWRENCE L. BADEN, GIBSONIA, PA
 N3JAJ 2001-03-26 PAUL B. SOUTHWORTH, MOHNTON, PA
 N3JAM 2001-03-26 JOHN M. POLIAK, FREEDOM, PA
 N3JAT 2001-03-26 BENJAMIN E. MC CRACKEN, TITUSVILLE, PA
 N3JAU 2001-03-26 MIRANDA M. PLATT, TITUSVILLE, PA
 N3VSN 2001-03-26 GARY E. BROSIUS, MILLERSBURG, PA
 WB3CCN 2001-03-12 MONTE L. COSTA I, CANONSBURG, PA
 WB3LPR 2001-03-31 LARRY W. LINKHAUER, MC KEESPORT, PA
 WM3M 2001-03-31 MELVIN E. NELSON, JR, ESPYVILLE, PA

Inside This Issue:

- It's Time to Start Thinking Field Day!
- Last Call: The UPMC/City of Pittsburgh Marathon Needs Your Help!
- It's 2001 ... Do you know when your ticket expires? Some of these folks... didn't
- It's April! Time for the WPA DXH&PDS Annual Meeting Notes!
- What It Takes to Operate from The Rocks... no, not McKees Rocks!
- All that and more... waiting for you, right inside these pages...



Would you want to be seen in public with these guys? WASH Club "Breakfast-eers" at the King's Family Restaurant on McMurray Road — Clockwise from left: N3RNX, KB3CPI, K3VX, KB3ENX, WN3VAW, W3RJM, KB3EPC's back. (Not shown: W4ZE & W3WH)
Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2001 Bill Hill W3WH



"Why I Missed the CQ WPX Contest"
Shack photo submitted by and
© Copyright 2001 Ed Wolf N3UE



The WASHRag

Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor
3505 Rosalia Avenue
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2317



**APRIL MEETING MOVED
TO MT. LEBANON FIRE
DEPARTMENT MEETING
ROOM, 710 WASHINGTON
ROAD, MT. LEBANON!**

**JOHN McMILLAN IS
UNAVAILABLE DUE TO MAUNDY
THURSDAY OBSERVANCES.**